
**FISHERIES (CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES)
REGULATIONS**

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

REGULATION

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65/1994.
[146/1997].

**FISHERIES (CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES)
REGULATIONS**

made under section 4

Citation.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fisheries (Conservation of Marine Turtles) Regulations.

Interpretation.
[146/1997].

2. In these Regulations—

“commercial shrimp trawlers” means all trawl vessels equipped with a mechanically operated net retrieval system or hydraulic winch;

“Ministry” means the Ministry with responsibility for marine resources;

“Republic” means the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;

“turtle excluder device” means a grid device with webbing extension that is inserted between the body of the trawl net and the cod end of the trawl net and allows the escape of turtles through an open panel.

Application of Regulations.

3. These Regulations apply to all commercial shrimp trawlers that are registered in the Republic or that are permitted to fish in the territorial waters of the Republic, by the Minister or the Harbour Master.

Deadline for installation and description of devices.
[146/1997].

4. In furtherance of regulation 3, every net that is in operational use on a commercial shrimp trawler shall be fitted with a turtle excluder device by April 30, 1994 and such device shall be of the type and specifications authorised by the Minister.

Capture of turtles.

5. (1) Where a person using a commercial shrimp trawler accidentally captures live marine turtles during fishing operations, the person shall immediately return such turtles to the sea.

(2) Where such a person accidentally captures live marine turtles that appear to be in a comatose state, the person shall resuscitate the turtles or cause them to be resuscitated in accordance with procedures authorised by the Minister.

6. Owners of commercial shrimp trawlers shall participate in all national and international marine turtle conservation practices, specified by the Minister.

Compulsory participation in certain programmes.

7. The owner or operator of any commercial shrimp trawler shall permit the Fisheries Officer, or the person authorised by him to inspect any commercial shrimp trawler, with a view to collecting and submitting data on the fisheries activities involving marine turtles.

Observers.

8. The Minister may from time to time publish by Notification in the *Gazette*—

Functions of the Minister. [146/1997].

- (a) the procedures for the resuscitation of turtles;
- (b) any national and international marine turtle conservation practices that have been agreed to by the Republic; and
- (c) the type and specifications of turtle excluder devices.

9. Where a person contravenes any of these Regulations, the owner of the commercial shrimp trawler, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of two thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

Offences.